

COMMERCIAL.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MAY 12, 1896.

The past week, just closed, has been decidedly the best of the season to date, our trade being unusually active. The bulk of our business has been in the sugar trade, and we have been very successful in our dealings with the planters. The sugar trade has been very active, and we have been very successful in our dealings with the planters. The sugar trade has been very active, and we have been very successful in our dealings with the planters.

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SPECIAL BUSINESS NOTICE.

Papers ready for mailing can be procured at our counter.

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The World's Progress.

A recent arrival from the States brought intelligence of the consummation, in England, of a great work of human skill and labor. A gigantic steamship of twenty-two thousand five hundred tons register, with a capacity for coals and cargo of eighteen thousand tons, and capable of conveying an army of twelve thousand five hundred men, has been completed, launched, and now awaits only the final outfit and equipment for a voyage across the ocean. In solidity and strength of construction, the great *Leviathan* has probably no equal in the world—and in gracefulness of proportion and elegance of form, no superior. We trust that she will endure to make many a safe passage from continent to continent, and that in all respects she will answer the expectations of her builders. With regard to the pecuniary profits of the enterprise, indeed, we have much doubt. Those who have invested their money in it with a view to golden returns, will perhaps be disappointed. But however this may be, there is no question that the undertaking, so boldly conceived and so triumphantly carried out, is one of the grandest monuments of modern skill and labor; and the name of Brunel, known to the world before as that of the engineer of the Thames tunnel, now assumes, as the architect of the great *Leviathan*, a foremost place among the names of living engineers.

The great *Leviathan* is a type of the commerce of the world. But a few hundred years ago the trade of nations was carried on chiefly by means of caravans, which wended their weary way among the mountains of the Caucasus, and the deserts of Arabia, bearing to and fro in mutual exchange, the treasures of the east and west. Maritime commerce was of less importance than inland. But the discovery of the properties of the compass in the year 1200, gave an impetus to this branch of commercial intercourse; and since then commerce has rapidly expanded under the discoveries and improvements of a growing civilization, until now, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, it has brought together for the exchange of staples, nations of the ends of the earth. It has sent forth its ships to every sea, and its messengers to every land. The entire surface of the globe is covered with its golden meshes. It is comparatively but a few years since a vessel of one hundred tons burthen was deemed amply sufficient for all the purposes of commercial intercourse. Now a great *Leviathan*, with a carrying capacity equal to that of two hundred and twenty ships of olden times, is deemed none too large for the purpose of trade.

The construction of the great *Leviathan*, too, affords an excellent illustration of the character of the age in which we live. Progress is the great watchword of the day—progress, not in the barren sense of filibustering ambition, but in the sober and practical sense of improvement and reform. The past century has been eminently one of great events. And now, more than at any other period, the minds of men seem to look forward to and strive after great objects. As civilization approaches perfection men find that knowledge affords the surest path to wealth and fame; and incited by the prospect of such reward, the human mind is up, everywhere, exploring, investigating and recording. In the various departments of art, science and literature, and, indeed, in every branch of attainment, there is a strong, sustained, enduring effort for advancement. It is gratifying to observe how the different nations of the earth are vying with each other in this general steep chase after knowledge, and how the discoverer of an important scientific fact, or the accomplisher of a great and unprecedented mechanical, artistic or literary work, belong to what country he may, becomes at once a character in history.

Among the improvements which have assisted commerce to make its rapid advances are those in relation to the form of the ship—rendering it better adapted than formerly to battle with the winds and waves, and better fitted for its intended burden. The iron chain has taken the place of the hemp cable, and iron has been brought more generally into use in lieu of weaker and more unwieldy material. There are, for example, the iron beam and knee, the iron pillar, the iron anchor. The great *Leviathan* possesses, in common with hundreds of other vessels, an iron hull; and of late, iron standing rigging has been introduced, and is said to be far superior in many respects to rope. Improved charts, nautical almanacs, and superior instruments of observation contribute to the safety of cargo and the preservation of life. But above all other improvements rise the employment of steam and the electric telegraph—the one enabling the freighted vessel to speed its way through storm and calm across the seas, and the other bearing news and communicating results with lightning speed. What a contrast the magnificent steamers of Europe and America present to the imperfect craft of yet uncivilized nations of the world—the canoes of Central Polynesia, consisting of a plank tied together with ropes—and the Chinese junk which, though on a higher scale, is still almost as awkward as a raft and but little safer.

The introduction of steam power is by far the greatest improvement yet made in commerce. Rapid rivers and intricate channels offer but little impediment to the modern steamer. All parts of the ocean are broken by the splash of its paddles. Everywhere "the spirit of Robert Fulton" moves upon the face of the waters."

But while improvement has been so busily at work in the commercial world, its march has been as wonderful, its progress as rapid in the field of agriculture—agriculture which was the first employment of man, and in which more than any other branch of industry lie the sources of national wealth. The invention of the cotton gin by Whitney was one of the most valuable discoveries ever made. For thousands of years the soft and silky produce of the cotton plant was almost useless from the difficulty of removing the seeds with which it was filled; so great was the labor of picking it by hand that cotton cloth was nearly as valuable as silk. Whitney's invention doubled the value of lands in the Southern United States and awaked the production of American cotton from a few bales to more than a thousand million pounds—providing employment for the spindles and looms of both Europe and America. The introduction of labor saving tools, too, has done much for the elevation and advancement of agricultural labor—the employment of tools and machines which, without being so complex as to easily get out of repair, or to be unintelligible to the rustic mind, make a great saving in the amount of labor, and can at the same time be afforded so cheaply as to be accessible to every industrious man. Among the improvements of this kind we find the winnowing and threshing machines, horse rakes, harvesters, seed planters, &c., &c., which have saved an immense amount of weariness—and the patent chain which dairy maids, in particular, have to bleed. In agriculture as well as in maritime improvements, the substitution of iron for wood has been one of the chief instruments of progress.

Chemistry within the last few years has done much for the advancement of agriculture, by teaching the character and deficiencies of soils, and the proper materials to be applied to them as manures. Scientific agriculture is coming more and more into the favor of the farmers every year. Agricultural schools, connected with model farms, have been introduced and are supported in some countries, with beneficial results—for they

unite theory and practice and afford opportunities for intelligent experiment. Agricultural societies, like the one which we have among us, are always useful, and tend directly to promote agricultural prosperity and enterprise.

In the mechanical and useful arts, however, progress is perhaps more perceptible than in any other branch of labor. Labor saving machines have been introduced everywhere, with the effect to increase manufacture and cheapen prices. Their introduction has revolutionized the industrial world. Since the discovery of gunpowder and printing we have had the spinning jenny and power loom; stereotyp plates and power press; the manufacture of iron into nails and screws at a price less than that of the raw material formerly; the planing machine of Woodworth; and the various kinds of saws, water wheels, &c. In olden times distaffs were used in spinning; and it is related that Hercules was once rapped over the head by Omphale for awkwardly holding her's. Now a nation may be clothed in cottons in less time than was formerly required to prepare the cotton for the spindle. Every year enough thread is spun in the manufactures of the world to reach two or three times from one planet to another. Indeed, if the world goes on a great many thousand years more, improving as it has during the last century, nothing less than comets will do for our manufacturers' shuttles, and the asteroids will have to be used for the bobbins to unreeled the thread. The transformation which the invention of the steam engine has made in the department of mechanics is familiar to every one—and the new kinds of machinery to which it gave rise are improving each succeeding year. The simple application of rotary motion to machinery, regulating the movements of saws, paddles, presses, &c., &c., has increased a hundred fold the general comfort of the human race. The materials for war furnish also a field for the inventive faculties of the human mind; and we see the results in our Congreve rockets, revolving pistols, Minie rifles, and the great gun at Woolwich, England, which, with a charge of one hundred pounds of powder, is capable of throwing a shell, three feet in diameter, to the distance of a mile and a quarter.

The subtle, and once unmanageable agent, electricity, is now applied to many uses—one of the most curious of which is that of electro-metallurgy, by which process the most delicate objects may be plated, or minutely copied in silver, gold or other metal—even the stamens and pistils of flowers and the eyes of the common house fly are transferred with scrupulous fidelity to the metallic copy. The discovery of Daguerre has benefited science by impressions of the sun, moon and stars; and already the rays of the sun have begun to supersede the draftsman in the preparation of blocks for the engraver.

It is thought by many that the improvements which have been introduced into machinery tend to lessen the demand for useful labor—a narrow view, which a moment's reflection will dissipate. We quote the following paragraph from a French work on political economy by Mr. Joseph Granier:

"In many cases, machines, far from supplanting human labor, have multiplied it. In fact, the substitution of labor, by reducing the cost of production, carries the manufactured article to the door of a great number of consumers; and experience proves that the cost of machinery is not so great as the price decreases, especially when the method of manufacture improves the commodity. The diminution of the price by a fourth has been known to double the consumption. We will only give two examples—printing and cotton spinning. Although the steam press enables one man to do the work of two hundred, the multiplication of books, the arts which are connected with them, such as the casting of type, the fabrication of paper, the professions of author, corrector, binder, etc., employ a thousand times as many persons as formerly were occupied in them; and what a difference in form and price between the manuscript of early times and the books of the present. When we observe the perfection of the machinery for spinning cotton, and the admirable rapidity with which the cottons are coming out of the looms, we may fancy that the greater number of persons formerly employed in spinning, have been thrown out of work; yet precisely the reverse has happened. Before the invention of machinery, only 500 female spinners at the wheel, and 2700 weavers, altogether 7900 persons, were employed in England; whilst in 1787, ten years later, 150,000 spinners and 247,000 weavers, or 397,000 persons were employed."

Thus goes the world. Every new discovery or invention, every important addition to human knowledge, raises man one step higher above the brute, and one step nearer his God. Progress seems to be an order of Nature; and the nearer man approaches the goal the more rapid is his advance towards perfection. Whenever a new field is opened a galaxy of inventors swarm around to develop its treasures—as in the case of the cotton gin, the steam engine and the telegraph. The more there is known the more there seems to be to acquire. Discoveries perhaps of greater magnitude than any hitherto, remain yet to be made, and there are to this day a host of pioneers engaged in seeking for them. We may look for great events in the world of science before the beginning of the year of our Lord nineteen hundred.

The Hula. It seems that the practice of hulas, or native dances, is becoming more universal every day. To the maintenance and support of the government, through the columns of the *Polynesian* and otherwise, is clearly due this retrograde movement of the nation towards heathenism. Under the plea of allowing the natives a harmless amusement, long diatribes are written by the government editor upon the benefits of physical education, and the most shameful and licentious conduct is practically licensed by the government itself. It does not indeed commit itself to public condemnation by openly fixing a price upon the privilege of carrying on a hula, but were informed that presents in money, etc., are regularly set apart from the infamous earnings of the performers, as a sort of douceur or tribute to "the chief," and they boldly assert that they are under the protection of government, and defy police interference. But the disease is not confined to Honolulu alone—the leprosy is spreading into the remote districts and attacks the previously industrious and moral among the people, inevitably leading to idleness and all its attendant vices. Sturdiness as it may seem, a return to idleness is only a natural result of the hula. Perhaps the government organ, in order to be consistent, will next week advocate the revival of "the harmless amusements of the heiaui." The following extract from an intelligent and reliable correspondent at Waiata, on this island, reveals some of the sad results of "a revival of the ancient games and pastimes."

"This part of Waiata is full of the heiaui. One of the leading deacons in the Protestant Church has now a class of twelve whom he is instructing in the songs and art. He receives \$10 per scholar. Idols, as is an informant by an intelligent native, are worshipped. In one of the houses which are full of idols, there are three idols (2 feet high, so says report.) Votive offerings have been made to them and the deacon above mentioned said to have sacrificed a pig. The natives are entering natives complain that his children have all left him and gone to the heiaui. He has three yoke of oxen, &c., and his family leave him to work alone. I think the heiaui is a curse. It is so generally reported among the natives. I would be glad to know it is not."

It was but recently that we learned from Maui of a similar instance of idol worship, in which the parties were arrested and fined. We shall probably be told that these are the heiaui, and a miser will perhaps be flung at the Christians' religion, converts to which are so easily won back to heathenism—but the truth is too plain to be longer ignored, that the Hawaiians, painfully struggling through their transition state, have

fallen into the hands of the Philistines—their natural guardians have opened the flood-gates of destruction upon them, and unless a speedy check is given to the evil, their doom is but a question of time.

We trust that this subject, which, in its bearings upon the morals of the people at large, is far more important than the late "dance-house" question, will be taken up by the Legislature of this year, and prompt and energetic action be had upon it. With all true friends of the Hawaiian race, there can be but one opinion in this matter.

NOTES OF THE WEEK. The bark *Fanny Major*, Capt. Paty, will be fully due here on Sunday next. She will bring the N. York mails of March 20th and April 6th.

THE HONOLULU RIFLES.—The event of the past week has been the parade of the Honolulu Rifles on yesterday, under the command of Capt. R. Coffey. The Company turned out about thirty rifles, and as it always does, looked extremely well. Preceded by a band of music, they marched from their Armory at 9 A. M., and proceeded direct to the ground which had been selected for the encampment, an open spot of green-sward, seaward of the State Church. Immediately on arriving on the ground, the snow-white tents were pitched, and the guard was set—the scene assuming the romantic appearance of the "tented field." Next came the target practice, which, considering the strong breeze that was blowing, evinced a decided improvement on the previous occasion. Out of ninety-nine shots fired thirty-three struck the board, and fourteen were placed in the target. Four prizes were offered and won as follows:

First best shot, Private R. J. Smith; prize, a Colt's Revolver, improved pattern. Second best shot, Private R. J. Smith; prize, a Silver Portmanteau. Third best shot, Private R. J. Smith; prize, \$25 in cash. Worst shot, Private R. J. Smith; prize, a beautiful leather Medal.

Dr. S. P. Ford and A. J. Cartwright, Esq., were the judges of the firing. Capt. Coffey, Lieut. Spencer and Private Lockwood, we learn, were the contributors of the \$25. Surgeon Hoffman having presented his prize to the Company, it was again shot for, and won by Sergeant W. R. Seal, this being the second time that he has been similarly honored in six months.

After the target practice, a sumptuous luncheon was partaken of by the Company and invited guests. During the lunch, a dance upon the green; then drill, during the still intervals of which, Mr. Howland, the Photographer, secured some very good views of the encampment. At about four o'clock the tents were struck, and the Company, after parading through the principal streets of the town, returned to their armory, well satisfied with their day's recreation. We are happy to know that this volunteer organization, which is a decided honor to our town, is in a flourishingly prosperous state. Long may it wave!

THE WINDY LOTS.—On Tuesday last a modest looking poster was issued, informing the public that the sale of what lots on the "New Esplanade" will take place to-day, "particulars made known at sale." From the fact that two auctioneers are engaged to do the selling, it might be inferred that a heavy business is anticipated. The published plan of leasing has been abandoned, but, with its usual short-sighted policy, government intends to offer the lease of the lots on terms which render their sale very improbable.

Six lots, on the line with James Robinson & Co's premises, are to be offered for a term of fifty years, at an upset price of \$50 per square yard, which will bring their cost price to about \$2000 apiece. At the rate of such money is held now, the ground-rent of each lot will be far from \$1200 per annum. The Esplanade in front of the lots offered, is to be left at the preposterous width of 220 feet, for the purpose of affording room for the storage and cooping of cargoes of oil, which it is fallaciously supposed will be stored there in great quantities. This is an attempt at reviving the exploded idea of making Honolulu an entrepot instead of a depot for transshipment. This much is all that we are able to state in regard to terms, which have only been mentioned since Tuesday, by "further particulars," it is supposed, will be made known at the time of sale, which is fixed for 12 o'clock, noon. Unless for different plans are proposed than those we have heard mentioned, we anticipate no competition at the sale.

ANNUAL EXAMINATION AT LAHAINA.—From the *Hae Hawaii* of yesterday, we learn that the Annual Examination of this Seminary took place on the 4th, 5th and 6th instant. The scholars were considered to have displayed a good proficiency in the studies pursued. The study of the English language, under the tuition of the Rev. C. B. Andrews, had been pursued with good success, and some of the scholars were able to read and converse quite readily therein. The difficulty of teaching the English language to Hawaiians was not unapparent, though it was made equally evident that they are capable, with good application, of acquiring it perfectly. The singing in English, with the piano accompaniment, was very creditable. There was a large audience present at the examination, of both natives and foreigners, and addresses were made to the scholars by Messrs Timoteo, Bishop and Armstrong, of a nature calculated to incite the scholars and their parents to free exertions in the pursuit of useful knowledge. On the whole, we should judge that the Lahaina Seminary was in a prosperous condition.

A GOOD ROAD.—A correspondent informs us that owing to the exertions of Rev. Mr. Taylor, of North Kona, and of Mr. T. H. Paris, of South Kona, the government road superintendents for those districts, a good passable carriage road has been completed from Kailakaka to Kailua, along the mountain side. The writer says: "You probably remember what a bad road it was formerly from Kailua to the bay along the mountain, and that it required a good horse and a man of some courage to undertake the journey. Thanks to our energetic road-superintendents, we have now a good carriage road all the way. Families living ten miles apart have visited each other in carriages with comfort and safety. It makes one think the time is not far distant when we may, in this distant spot, enjoy many of the comforts of home—our native home, which is so near."

THE GOVERNMENT POUND.—A case occurred before the native court the other day, which looked very much like an attempt at extortion. Several horses, belonging to a foreigner, were put into the pound at Pauoa, and the owner informed that by paying ten dollars, the amount of damage which it was alleged the animals had done to certain cultivated grounds, they would be liberated. The ten dollars was paid, but an inquiry was set on foot of the owners of the grounds said to be trespassed on, when it was ascertained beyond a doubt, that the story of damages was a fabrication, the animals not having done so much as reported of grass, or in fact, gone out of the public road. A suit was instituted at the native court and the pound master was obliged to return the money. The thought occurs that possibly many other trespass and damage cases may have been as facetiously gotten up.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—We frequently hear the remark made that Honolulu needs a government inspector of weights and measures—particularly the latter. An official so termed is to be found in almost every town of New England, and his usefulness is readily understood and appreciated by all who have ever lived in that part of the world. An act of the Legislature would be required, and we doubt not could be easily obtained, to create the office here.

DEATH OF PROFESSOR FRANK.—In the N. Y. Tribune of Feb. 18th, appears a statement by Mr. Edwards, that the report of the death of Prof. Frank at Ecuador in a duel with Prof. Moore, was erroneous. Mr. Frank having come to his death by the accidental discharge of firearms in the hands of Moore.

A GOOD MORTIFYING CRAFT.—That is what the sailors term a vessel that is never successfully in a hurry about her trips. The *Isa Dunlop*, which arrived on Monday from Hawaii, was about thirty-three days, just the time to a day that the *Isa Dunlop* was taken to California and back.

DUEL TIMES.—This is the explanation of every one we meet in the streets now-a-days, and indeed we meet but few. One may walk through the principal business thoroughfare of the town—Queen street—from one end to the other, at the hour of eleven A. M., without meeting more than a dozen persons, and in those he will fail to detect the slightest token of business or bustle. From a lively spring market, the city has become a dead city, and the summer of our discontent has dropped all color and energy from our quiver. All things are dead and deadening, and the melancholy and morose present the melancholy spectacle of a town without a murmur—to talk about.

WANTED.—A Book of Quotations in order to enable our "snapper-up" to compete with the *Polynesian* in its flowery descriptions of Flour Companies. No less than four bits of poetry and one slice from the Latin appears in a short article last week on the above subject. Not having the authorities at hand, we will only quote one that we just now remember which is descriptive of our "feelings": "And still they gazed, and still the windows grew, How many had created the world to love."

THE COFFEE CROP.—By letters received from various sources, we learn that the coffee crop of the present year on Hawaii bids fair to exceed that of several previous seasons. What with blight and other less apparent causes, the yield of last year was much smaller than usual both of coffee and oranges, and following an almost inevitable rule of alternation, the present year will probably be remarkable for abundance—we hear nothing of the blight.

THE LAST WALKER.—The *Black Warrior*, Capt. Brown, having her small stores about all in, including the patent spring lances, sails to-day for the Arctic. As she is the last in the spring departures, may she not be the least arrival in the fall.

THE POLYNESIAN, VOLUME XV.—The *Polynesian* came out on Saturday, with the first number of its fifteenth volume, having returned to its former respectable size, and otherwise improved typographically.

CROWDED OUT.—Several communications intended for this issue are unavoidably crowded out.

(Correspondence of the Commercial Advertiser.) Punch at the Confessional. [Instead of asking questions, as a curs